

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, in response to Senator Fowler's question about how far the money would go, as I recall last year during the debate on 220, the Game and Parks Commission estimated they spent about \$150,000 or \$160,000 a year picking up litter and the Department of Roads estimated they spent about \$250,000 a year picking up litter. Obviously this does not take care of the problem of the counties and the townships and the cities have but about \$400,000 was spent by state government, give or take a few thousand dollars, so that ought to answer part of that question. The balance of the money is no doubt going to be spent and it should be spent within the cities and the counties and the townships and could be of some help. Again I want to say there are a lot of things I don't like about the bill, a lot of things I don't like about a lot of bills that move across this board but it is an attempt to address the thing, an attempt to address it now and I think it's worth taking a look at. It does not in any way preclude the petition drive. The people who want the petition drive are going to have every opportunity to do so. I could ceremoniously sign one of those petitions myself if it would help anything and I suppose someone would say I was trying to do it for votes and someone would say I was trying to lose votes but there's a lot of ceremony behind signing a petition. The real strength of a petition depends on how many people want to get out and push the bloomin' things. I could make a tremendous announcement about how I'm going to take off after the petition drive with the bottle thing and I could probably get a little mileage out of it but I don't know if that's the way I want to go or not. I think this is a good way to go. It's an attempt to see if we want to address the problem at this stage at this time. I think very frankly we talked LB 220 to death. I want to say one more thing. I don't think any two bills have had more or any two concepts have had more discussion than the bottle bill proposal and this proposal. I heard both of them before my Committee. I gave both sides a complete opportunity to discuss the bills. Time after time after time I asked questions to bring out every possible objection to both bills. I want to say again, I adopted LB 818 as a foster child as an attempt to do something in the area of litter. The bill did not pass. I believe it could have been passed but it did not pass. I think that this Legislature has a responsibility to try to do something and I want to say once again, there are many many issues far more important than litter that we ought to be debating and taking care of. I see Senator Labeledz who has spent many many hours on Homestead Exemption, Senator Newell similar around here. Those bills, I am sure many older elderly people would agree, are more important than the litter and we can all have plenty of evidence of other bills but I think this is an opportunity to do something. If you don't like it, have at it again next year. That's the name of the game but it's unfortunate that we try to say well if we can't have what is perfect, we don't want anything. I think that we should take half a loaf. In the words of Senator Carpenter, the sooner you learn to take a half a loaf around this place, the sooner you're going to learn to be an effective Legislator, and that's what we're here for today.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I regret that LB 818 was not enacted. It was not even passed on